

Dated: April 20, 1992.

Gwendolyn S. King,
Commissioner of Social Security.

Approved: May 21, 1992.

Louis W. Sullivan,
Secretary of Health and Human Services.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, we propose to revise subpart G of part 404 of 20 CFR chapter III as follows:

PART 404—FEDERAL OLD-AGE, SURVIVORS AND DISABILITY INSURANCE (1950-)

1. The authority citation for subpart G of part 404 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Secs. 202 (i), (j), (o), (p), and (r), 205(a), 216(i)(2), 223(b), 228(a), and 1102 of the Social Security Act; 42 U.S.C. 402 (i), (j), (o), (p), and (r), 405(a), 416(i)(2), 423(b), 428(a), and 1302.

2. Section 404.611 is amended by revising paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 404.611 Filing of application with Social Security Administration.

* * * * *

(b) *Effect of claims filed with the Railroad Retirement Board.* Pursuant to section 5(b) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, as amended, 45 U.S.C. 231d(b), if you file an application with the Railroad Retirement Board on one of its forms for an annuity under section 2 of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, as amended, 45 U.S.C. 231a, unless you specify otherwise, this application also will be an application for any benefit to which you may be entitled under title II of the Social Security Act.

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[FR Doc. 92-25243 Filed 10-16-92; 8:45 am]

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

22 CFR Part 514

[Rulemaking No. 100]

The Exchange Visitor Program

AGENCY: United States Information Agency.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The United States Information Agency (the "Agency") is in the process of revising the Exchange Visitor Program (J visa) regulations. Notice of proposed rulemaking regarding regulations for the Exchange Visitor Program was published in the **Federal Register** (57 FR 46679-46716) on October 9, 1992, and the Agency set a 60-day

period for written comments. The Agency will convene a public meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 1992 to provide additional opportunity for public comment on the proposed regulations. All persons are welcome to attend. Reservation is requested as stated in this notice. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for further details.

DATES: A public meeting will be held between 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 1992 in Washington, DC.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Voice of America Auditorium, First Floor, Wilbur J. Cohen Federal Building, 300 Block of C Street, SW. (between Third and Fourth Streets, SW.), Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Persons who request more information about the public meeting should contact Ms. Tonya Reed, Office of the General Counsel, United States Information Agency, room 700, 301 Fourth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, Tel. (202) 401-1707, FAX (202) 619-4573, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The public meeting is scheduled to be held between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 1992, at the Voice of America Auditorium, First Floor, Wilbur J. Cohen Federal Building, 300 Block of C Street, SW. (between Third and Fourth Streets, SW.), Washington, DC. The public meeting will be conducted by senior Agency officials, and interested parties are invited to be present or represented. The Director of the Agency encourages the widest possible participation from all interested parties, such as Exchange Visitor Program sponsors, educational associations, educators, educational administrators, researchers, corporate training personnel, government agencies, exchange visitors, and members of the community at large. If there is sufficient interest, and if funding is available, the Agency is prepared to hold a second public meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 1992 on the West Coast. Persons interested in attending such a second public meeting should contact Ms. Tonya Reed at the number listed below.

Reservations: Persons planning to attend the public meeting are requested to make reservations by calling Ms. Tonya Reed, Office of the General Counsel, United States Information Agency, at (202) 401-1707 or FAX (202) 619-4573.

Format of presentation: Interested parties may present comments or ask questions at the public meeting orally or

in writing. Each speaker will be asked to limit his or her comments to ten (10) minutes. Oral statements will be heard and transcribed by a stenographer or tape recorded; however, to assure accuracy the Agency recommends that statements also be submitted in writing. A party submitting a written statement may provide the Agency (at the address listed above) with an advance copy, or submit the statement at the public meeting. Both oral and written statements will become part of the public record and will be considered prior to the issuance of the notice of final rulemaking. The Agency reserves the right to shorten the period of time allotted for the public meeting based on the number of oral statements presented.

Submission of written statements:

Written statements sent to the Agency should be addressed to Task Force on Regulatory Reform, Office of the General Counsel, United States Information Agency, room 700, 301 Fourth St. SW., Washington, DC 20547. To facilitate the Agency's review, an original and four additional copies should be submitted.

Dated: October 14, 1992.

Alberto J. Mora,

General Counsel.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 300

[FRL-4522-7]

National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List for Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of intent to delete Waste Research and Reclamation Co. Site.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces its intent to delete the Waste Research & Reclamation Co. facility in Eau Claire, Wisconsin (the "WRR Site"), from the National Priorities List (NPL), 40 CFR part 300, appendix B, and requests public comment on this action. The NPL constitutes appendix B to the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), which EPA promulgated pursuant to section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability

Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended. This action to delete the WRR Site from the NPL is proposed because EPA and the State of Wisconsin have determined that no further fund-financed remedial action under CERCLA is appropriate at this site; it will instead be addressed under the provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The State of Wisconsin has agreed to undertake any remaining cleanup actions under its delegated RCRA authority.

DATES: Comments concerning the WRR Site may be submitted on or before November 18, 1992.

ADDRESSES: Comments to be considered by EPA in making this decision should be mailed to: Susan Manconi; Remedial Section Chief; Waste Management Division; Remedial Response Branch WI/MI; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region V; 77 West Jackson Boulevard; Chicago, IL 60604-3507.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Manconi; Remedial Section Chief; Waste Management Division; Remedial Response Branch WI/MI; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region V; 77 West Jackson Boulevard; Chicago, IL 60604-3507; Telephone (312) 886-3010.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Comprehensive information on the WRR Site is available for public review in the docket EPA Region V has prepared, which contains the documents and information EPA reviewed in the decision to propose to delete the WRR Site from the NPL. The docket is available for public review during normal business hours at the EPA Region V docket room at the above address and at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Library; 400 Eau Claire Street; Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701.

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I. Introduction

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces its intent to delete the Waste Research and Reclamation Co. facility in Eau Claire, Wisconsin (the "WRR Site"), from the National Priorities List (NPL), which constitutes appendix B of the NCP, and requests comments on this action.

The EPA identifies sites which may present a significant risk to public health, welfare, or the environment, and maintains the NPL as the list of those sites. Sites on the NPL may be the subject of remedial actions financed by

the Hazardous Substance Superfund Response Trust Fund (the "Fund") or responsible parties. Pursuant to the NCP at 40 CFR 300.425(e)(3), any site deleted from the NPL remains eligible for Fund-financed responses and for re-listing on the NPL, if conditions at the site ever warrant such action.

The EPA will accept comments concerning the proposal to delete WRR from the NPL for thirty (30) calendar days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

II. NPL Deletion Criteria

The NCP establishes the criteria that the Agency uses to delete sites from the NPL. In accordance with the NCP at 40 CFR 300.425(e), sites may be deleted from the NPL where no further response under CERCLA is appropriate. In making this determination, EPA typically considers: Whether responsible or other parties have implemented all appropriate and required response actions; whether all appropriate Fund-financed responses under CERCLA have been implemented and EPA has determined that no further cleanup by responsible parties is appropriate; or whether the release of hazardous substances poses no significant threat to public health, welfare or the environment, thereby eliminating the need for remedial action.

In the past, EPA has indicated that in some cases it may be appropriate to delete from the NPL those sites that meet all the criteria for deferral to RCRA, and, in addition, present circumstances that otherwise make deletion appropriate. See 51 FR 21059 (June 10, 1986); 53 FR 30008 (August 9, 1988). On August 9, 1988 (53 FR 30009), EPA indicated that while it would not systematically review sites already on the NPL to see whether they are eligible for deletion on this basis, it would consider requests for deletion that showed the circumstances to be appropriate. EPA has concluded that in this case the circumstances are appropriate for deletion. In this case, the Agency can make a finding that all appropriate Fund-financed response under CERCLA has been implemented and no further CERCLA response action by responsible parties is appropriate. Deletion under this approach does not indicate that the cleanup has been completed, but rather that no further Superfund involvement is necessary, and that the Agency expects the response to be completed under RCRA, under which the entire response has been handled to date.

III. Deletion Procedures

The NCP at 40 CFR 300.425(e) specifies the procedures to be followed in deleting sites from the NPL. It directs that notice and an opportunity to comment must be given before deleting sites from the NPL. By this Notice, EPA intends to notify the public of its proposal to delete WRR from the NPL, and it will accept comments from the public on this proposal for a period of thirty (30) days after the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

EPA will accept and evaluate public comments before making a final decision, and will address them in a Responsiveness Summary, which EPA will place in the docket for this decision. If, after consideration of these comments, EPA decides to proceed with the deletion, EPA will publish another document in the **Federal Register**.

The following procedures are being used for the intended deletion of the WRR Site:

The State of Wisconsin has concurred with this decision and has agreed to continue to oversee cleanup under its delegated RCRA authority.

Concurrent with this national Notice of Intent to Delete, a local notice will be published in the local newspaper and will be distributed to appropriate federal, state and local officials and other interested parties. This local notice will specify a 30 day comment period.

The Region has made all relevant documents available in the Regional Office and local site information repository.

IV. Basis for the Intended Deletion of the WRR Site

The WRR Site was occupied by a roofing company from the 1970s to 1981. WRR has occupied by a roofing company from the 1970s to 1981. WRR has occupied the WRR Site since then. WRR is primarily a reclamation and recycling business for hazardous liquid wastes, fuel blending, and the transportation of hazardous waste for incineration or disposal. Waste materials handled included chlorinated and fluorinated solvents and flammables. The groundwater, soil, and surface water at the WRR Site are contaminated with various volatile organic compounds from WRR's waste handling procedures.

The WRR Site was placed on the NPL in September, 1984, before EPA adopted its current policy of not listing sites remediable under RCRA (i.e., the RCRA deferral policy). Had the current RCRA deferral policy been in effect at the time WRR was listed, and had facility-wide

corrective action also been in effect, WRR would not have been placed on the NPL. Cleanup at the WRR Site is appropriate for RCRA corrective action, and since its listing, the WRR Site is being adequately addressed entirely under RCRA.

On September 30, 1988, WRR was issued a permit which addressed corrective action at the WRR Site using section 3004(u) of RCRA. The response under RCRA is progressing adequately, and there has been no history of recalcitrance. Although cleanup at the WRR Site has not been completed, WRR has demonstrated that it is both willing and financially able to conduct the cleanup under RCRA. Deletion would not disrupt any CERCLA response activity; no future CERCLA involvement is planned to remediate the WRR Site, which continues to be addressed under RCRA. Note, however, that should CERCLA involvement be necessary, EPA may use Fund money to cleanup the WRR Site or place the WRR Site back on the NPL without rescoring. Documentation supporting these findings is available in the appropriate dockets established by Region V.

EPA, with concurrence from the State of Wisconsin, has therefore determined that all appropriate Fund-financed responses under CERCLA at the WRR Site have been completed, and that no further cleanup under CERCLA is appropriate.

Dated: October 9, 1992.

Don R. Clay,

Assistant Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

42 CFR Chapter IV

[MB-069-NPR]

RIN 0938-AG14

Medicaid and Medicare Programs; Use of Standardized Federal Claims Processing Forms and Procedures

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), HHS.

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This advance notice of proposed rulemaking outlines the steps that HCFA intends to take to streamline Medicaid claims processing as part of its strategy to reduce administrative costs

and burden throughout the health care system.

DATES: Comments will be considered if we receive them at the appropriate address, as provided below, no later than 5 p.m. on December 18, 1992.

ADDRESSES: Mail comments to the following address: Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: MB-069-NPR, P.O. Box 26676, Baltimore, MD 21207.

If you prefer, you may deliver your written comments to one of the following addresses:
Room 309-G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201, or
Room 132, East High Rise Building, 6325 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21207.

Due to staffing and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission. In commenting, please refer to file code MB-069-NPR. Comments received timely will be available for public inspection as they are received, generally beginning approximately 3 weeks after publication of a document, in Room 309-G of the Department's offices at 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, on Monday through Friday of each week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (phone: (202) 690-7890).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Friedman, (410) 966-3292.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On November 5, 1991, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) held a Forum on Administrative Costs. Its purpose was to develop a strategy to reduce administrative costs throughout the private and public health care systems.

As a result of that forum, a number of industry-led task forces were established to achieve this strategic purpose. On July 21, 1992, the Secretary received the final report of one of the task forces, the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI). The recommendations of the report demonstrate the private health care industry's commitment to standardized automated health information and a public/private partnership to develop an efficient national information system.

On June 23, 1992, the Administration's legislative proposal on Medical and Health Insurance Information was introduced (Bill No. S2878). One major goal of the legislation is to foster development of an electronic network to simplify claims for consumers, and improve information exchange

throughout the health care system. The DHHS, as part of a Federal government-wide effort, is committed to taking every step it can to achieve this goal with or without legislation. This advance notice of proposed rulemaking delineates many of the steps the Department plans to take.

Moving toward fully automated and standardized claims processing will eliminate unnecessary costs and burdens of the health care system while strengthening administrative activities that improve the quality of health care. It is generally recognized that the existing range of claims processing requirements leads to duplicate billing, inefficiencies, and poor coordination of benefits. The standardization of data elements and electronic transactions will increase the number of health care claims processed electronically by a minimum of 10 percent annually. We anticipate that the increased use of electronic claims will help reduce administrative costs by eliminating the need for re-keying information, postage, and the vast amount of paperwork involved in ordering health care items or services, invoicing, and remitting payment to physicians and other providers.

The goal in a standardized claims processing environment is for all non-hospital-based physicians receiving payment from either the Medicaid or Medicare programs to submit their claims electronically and in a standardized format. Reaching this objective involves two components. Common billing forms must be developed using standardized data elements and data definitions. Also, electronic data transaction standards must be developed and adopted by all non-institutional providers who receive payment from Medicaid or Medicare. This Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking publicly announces our intention to require all State Medicaid programs to adopt these standards, once they have been developed, as a condition for receiving Federal financial participation in payment for Medicaid claims.

II. Purpose of Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

This Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking outlines the administrative steps HCFA intends to take to move State Medicaid programs and Medicaid providers toward the use of standardized claims processing forms using standard data elements and data transaction procedures. It also seeks public comment on the proposed process. All of the activities discussed in